(d) whether Government are aware of the delay by the telephone authorities in the shifting of phone from one place to another in Delhi; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to reduce the delay?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of applicants waiting for telephone connections as on 30.6.96 in the metropolitan cities are given below.

Delhi	-	51,165
Mumbai	-	41,682
Calcutta	-	68,116
Madras	-	87,733

(b) All these applicants are likely to get connections by 1997.

(c) The steps taken to reduce the period between sanction and installation of phone is given in the attached statement-I.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Steps taken to reduce the delay in the shifting of phone from one place to another in Delhi are given in the attached statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

Steps taken to reduce the period between sanctions and installation of phone.

* Decentralisation of commercial work.
* Simplification and streamlining of commercial procedures.
* Further Computerisation of commercial work.
* Prompt Issue and despatch of work orders (OBs) to field Units.
* Advance planning and construction of external plant based on waiting list and anticipated demand.
* Close monitoring of execution of work orders.

STATEMENT-II

Steps taken to reduce the delay in shifting of telephone from one place to another in Delhi.

* Decentralisation of commercial work pertaining to shift.
* Simplification and streamlining of commercial policies and procedures.
* Quick despatch of shift work orders (OBs) using Speedpost/Courier.
* Extensive use of FAX for Inter-office communication between various field units involved.
* Updation of records.
* Close monitoring of execution of work order.
* Expeditious action for laying of cables in technically nonfeasible areas to provide connection pertaining to shift cases.

Increase in Price of Post Card

2435. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the price of post card for various TV competitions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). In his Budget Speech, Finance Minister has proposed introduction of a new category of Post-card called Competition Post-card, to be used in response to competitions through television, Radio, Newspapers, magazines or other Media with a price of Rs.2/- each. The new service will become effective from a date to be notified by the Government after the Finance Bill is passed.

Kannada Programmes

2436. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total time allotted to Kannada programme being shown every day on Bangalore Doordarshan;

(b) whether Doordarshan Channel 9 is an exclusive channel for Kannada programme;

(c) whether this cannel is accessible only to those who have cable facility; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to extend this channel to all the places in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Programmes in Kannada are telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore for four hours daily except on Wednesday and Saturday when the duration of such telecasts is 3 hours 20 minutes and one hour respectively. Besides this, programmes of a duration of 7 hours and 30 minutes daily are also telecast on the Regional Language Satellite Channel (DD-9) in Kannada language.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Whereas, Kannada programmes on Channel 9 (DD-9) are available throughout the country including Karnataka, via satellite, by using suitable dish antenna system, terrestrially the regional service programmes are relayed by various High Power and Low Power TV Transmitters function in the State which are linked to DDK, Bangalore via satellite.